

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087897
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 OES-07 L-03 AID-05 EB-08
TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 DOE-15 SOE-02 EPA-04 CEQ-01
INT-05 PC-05 COME-00 NSC-05 H-02 AGRE-00 HEW-06
OIC-02 /134 R

DRAFTED BY IO/IEP:JDCASWELL:RTB
APPROVED BY IO/IEP:DHCOHN
IO/IEP:LEKAHN
OES/ENP/EN:BLONG
-----003837 060024Z /61
P 052316Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 087897

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECLA, SENV, UN

SUBJECT: ECLA - LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL MEETING ON THE
ACTION PLAN OF THE UN WATER CONFERENCE, JUNE 26-30, 1978

REF: A) SANTIAGO 1925; B) STATE 66246

1. AS PER REFTEL A, THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT PREVIEWING
THE STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY THE U.S. DELEGATION AT THE
SUBJECT CONFERENCE, TO BE PASSED IMMEDIATELY TO ECLA
SECRETARIAT. BEGIN QUOTE

THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS A SYNOPSIS OF U.S. ACTIVITIES,
INTERESTS AND PROPOSALS EMANATING FROM THE 1977 UN WATER
CONFERENCE. PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUEST TO
GOVERNMENTS SET FORTH IN ST/CEPAL/CONF.63/L.2, IT IS
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INTENDED TO ASSIST THE CEPAL SECRETARIAT DEVELOP A
DISCUSSION PAPER FOR THE JUNE 1978 REGIONAL MEETING ON
THE WATER CONFERENCE ACTION PLAN.
A. MEASURES TAKEN OR ENVISAGED BY COUNTRIES TO IMPLEMENT
THE MAR DEL PLATA ACTION PLAN

(1) CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING THE ACTION PLAN HAVE

BEEN BROADLY DISTRIBUTED TO U.S. INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL WATER PROGRAMS WITH A REQUEST THAT THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BE CONSIDERED IN PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES.

(2) THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF MAR DEL PLATA WERE PRESENTED AT THE U.S. WATER CONFERENCE CONVENED IN ST. LOUIS IN MAY, 1977.

(3) A HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT MEETING WAS HELD IN DECEMBER TO CONSIDER FOLLOW-UP TO BOTH THE UN WATER AND DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCES. ON THE BASIS OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THAT MEETING, AN INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AT THE BEHEST OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE WORKING GROUP INCLUDES MEMBERS FROM ELEVEN U.S. DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, AND THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT. ITS OBJECTIVE IS TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY AND PROGRAM OPTIONS TO GUIDE AND SUPPORT U.S. GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN THE 1980-1990 DRINKING WATER DECADE, AND FORMULATE A STATEMENT ON WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

(4) PRESIDENT CARTER HAS REQUESTED A REVIEW AND REVISION OF U.S. DOMESTIC WATER POLICIES. ALTHOUGH NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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A DIRECT OUTGROWTH OF THE MAR DEL PLATA CONFERENCE, THIS POLICY REVIEW IS DIRECTLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENTS IN THE ACTION PLAN.

(5) THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT HAS ADVISED THE USAID MISSIONS IN ITS FISCAL YEAR 1980 BUDGET AND PROGRAM GUIDANCE OF THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN WATER-RELATED FIELDS; URGED USAID MISSIONS TO BE ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES TO INCLUDE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECTS IN THE OVERALL COUNTRY PROGRAM; AND REQUESTED MISSIONS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE BY HOST GOVERNMENTS FOR WATER PROJECTS.

(6) SIMILARLY, THE U.S. PEACE CORPS HAS ALSO ADVISED ITS COUNTRY DIRECTORS TO "FULLY EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR AN EXPANDED PEACE CORPS ROLE IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA", AND TO COORDINATE PEACE CORPS ACTIONS WITH USAID MISSIONS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL.

(7) USAID HAS ANALYZED ITS PRESENT PROGRAM SUBMITTED

TO CONGRESS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1979. A TOTAL OF 83 WATER-RELATED PROJECTS WERE IDENTIFIED WORLD-WIDE, WITH A LIFE-OF-PROJECT VALUE OF \$853 MILLION, OF WHICH ABOUT \$300 MILLION WILL BE OBLIGATED IN FY 1979. TEN PROJECTS

WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE LATIN AMERICA REGION, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF \$49,252,000. THE FY 1979 LEVEL IS \$17,022,000.

(8) WITHIN THE INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP DESCRIBED IN ITEM (3) ABOVE, THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES ARE PREPARING STRATEGY STATEMENTS SETTING FORTH ACTIVITIES IN WATER-RELATED FIELDS WHICH EACH IS SPONSORING OR PLANS TO SUPPORT IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC ACTIONS THE AGENCY PROPOSES TO TAKE IN SUPPORT OF THE 1980-1990 INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION. THESE STATEMENTS WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO ONE NATIONAL STRATEGY PAPER WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS. THE WORKING GROUP HAS ALSO CONTACTED SEVERAL PRIVATE U.S. VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS TO INQUIRE AS TO THEIR PLANS TO INCREASE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN WATER PROJECTS DURING THE DRINKING WATER DECADE AND ABOUT WAYS IN WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD ENHANCE THEIR INITIATIVES. FINALLY, THE WORKING GROUP IS MONITORING ACTIONS OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS FIELD, AND HAS ALREADY RECEIVED BRIEFINGS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE WORLD BANK ON THEIR PREPARATION FOR THE DRINKING WATER DECADE.

(9) WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT, ULTIMATELY, IT MUST BE THE NATIONAL COMMITMENT WHICH WILL PREVAIL AND WHICH WILL BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR WHETHER WATER PROJECTS ARE UNDERTAKEN OR NOT. THE LEVEL OF SUCCESS OF THE DRINKING WATER DECADE WILL GREATLY DEPEND ON THE NATIONAL COMMITMENT AND THE DEGREE OF PRIORITY WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS ARE WILL TO ASSIGN TO DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION PROJECTS.

B. MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE CONFERENCE WHICH ARE MOST NECESSARY AND URGENT TO APPROACH THROUGH SOME FORM OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

(1) INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION.

(2) STRENGTHENED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND UNCLASSIFIED

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COORDINATION. THIS WOULD INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF: THE NATURE OF A CENTRAL FOCAL POINT FOR COORDINATION WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM (E.G., NEW BOARD OR COUNCIL); A SPECIFIC MANDATE TO THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO BE RESPONSIVE TO GOVERNMENT REQUESTS IN THIS SECTOR AND TO STRENGTHEN PROGRAM COORDINATION; AND REQUIREMENTS FOR

IMPROVED REGIONAL COOPERATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT.

(3) THE ADEQUACY OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTIONS WITH RESPECT TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING AND EDUCATION, AND MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT. THE ROLE OF CEPAL WOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED UNDER THIS TOPIC.

(4) COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL AND BI-NATIONAL RIVER BASIN, WATER RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS.

(5) ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND POLLUTION CONTROL: REGIONAL COOPERATION AND NEEDS.

(6) FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WATER SECTOR, INCLUDING THE STATUS OF THE ONGOING UN STUDY REQUESTED BY THE CONFERENCE, AND ALSO COUNTRY VIEWS ON OVERALL WATER SECTOR AND SPECIALIZED WATER PROGRAM PRIORITIES IN RELATION TO OTHER SECTORAL AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PRIORITIES.

C. SUGGESTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH WILL FACILITATE CEPAL'S ROLE

THESE, FOR THE MOST PART, MUST AWAIT DISCUSSION OF COUNTRY INTERESTS AND INTERNATIONAL NEEDS AS ADDRESSED IN SECTIONS (A) AND (B) ABOVE. THE UNITED STATES URGED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MAR DEL PLATA THE CONVENING OF POST-CONFERENCE REGIONAL MEETINGS SUCH AS THIS FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING REGIONAL AND COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE QUITE-GENERALIZED ACTION PLAN. CLEARLY, IMPROVED INFORMATION EXCHANGE, RESEARCH, TRAINING, SEMINARS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ARE ALL CANDIDATE AREAS. WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING THE VIEWS OF THE LATIN

AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH WILL GATHER IN SANTIAGO IN
JUNE VIZ-A-VIZ THEIR SPECIFIC INTERESTS, NEEDS AND
PRIORITIES. END QUOTE.

THE ORIGINAL OF THE TEXT AND A COVERING LETTER TO
IGLESIAS ARE BEING POUCHED TO SANTIAGO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER, POLICIES, MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE087897
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDCASWELL:RTB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780147-0910
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780488/aaaacxbf.tel
Line Count: 232
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 35f0edb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SANTIAGO 1925, 78 STATE 66246
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3061746
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECLA - LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL MEETING ON THE ACTION PLAN OF THE UN WATER CONFERENCE, JUNE 26-30, 1978
TAGS: SENV, PORG, US, UN, ECLA
To: SANTIAGO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/35f0edb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014